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Incomprehensible,

It is easy to become confused about the goings-on in the political mazes of Washington.

For instance, on the same day that news of Fowler Hemilton's nomination to head a combined foreign aid agency was broken, a nationally syndicated columnist was also concerned with the New York lawyer.

Hamilton had been one of the men considered to succeed Allan Dulles as head of the Central Intelligence Agency. The columnist reported that Hamilton had been dropped from consideration because a key Democrat in the Senate warned his nomination would set off a bitter battle.

The reason? Hamilton is a close friend of the mysterious Adam: Yar-

fense Secretary McNamara and one of the most powerful men in Washington. One thing is known about Mr. Yarmolinsky. He idited, while attending Harvard, a paper that was so far out in left field that it was out of the ball park.

The columnist could have been wrong about the reason for dropping Hamilton as a possibility for the new head of the CIA. But if he was right, will there not also be a battle over Hamilton's nomination as head of the vastly expanded and more powerful consolidated foreign aid agency? There should be.

Mr. Hamilton may be just the man for the job for which he has been nominated. But if there were doubts in the minds of some senators about his being a satisfactory candidate for CIA chief, these doubts should be fully resolved before he is confirmed for a position almost as sensitive and important.